

Oral Testimony Before the Connecticut Commerce Committee
NBC Universal
Monday February 25, 2010

Members of the Committee, Co Chairs [Gary LeBeau & Jeff Berger], my name is Richard Ross. I am Senior Vice President in charge of NBC Television Programming & Production. On any given year I am responsible for the production of television shows with a total budget of \$300 million. That budget generally covers a combination of pilots, television series and specials. We are challenged daily to operate within the confines of these budgets in an effort to continue to have the flexibility to create new and recurring content. Film tax credits are often the critical difference on whether a show remains in production and are a primary driver on location.

The Stamford production studio and the 3 52-week shows would not be here today but for a 2008 analysis my team performed then, and performs weekly, of what state's offer what credits and whether the infrastructure and skilled labor pool make sense. Without the credit in its current form, Connecticut would not have been part of that dialogue. Because of the credit, we have a permanent address in Stamford and employ in excess of 175 full-time and 30 part-time individuals.

Because of the permanent production footprint NBC now has in Connecticut and because of the positive experiences we realized in Stamford proper and in the State in general, Connecticut is now part of the NBC dialogue when exploring production locations.

Connecticut is still overcoming infrastructure and available skilled labor challenges. In January, NBC passed on locating a television pilot here because there was no available infrastructure that fit the needs of the show. The changes to the Film & Digital Media Production Tax Credit pending before this Committee will only further constrain the infrastructure resources by confining photography to a studio. An empty warehouse, hospital ward or wing of a school can often serve as a production studio.

The larger team of which I am a part controls in excess of \$2 billion annually on funds allotted to television production. I am here to attest today, that the credit in its current form keeps Connecticut at the top of the discussion when NBC is making television location decisions.